1:Beaglehole and Beaglehole E-5 (1934-5)1938 Pukapukans

345 257 were built into the center of the platform. Formerly the bottom hatch (*pe lae*) was level with the platform and locked to it by complicated knots supposed to be known only to the owner of the house. When in use, the fastenings were untied and the hatch placed on the ground. The top hatch (*pe tai*), about 12 inches directly over the first hatch, was locked horizontally to the top ends of thin vertical poles, which were locked at the bottom to the platform supports. The two hatches and the vertical supporting poles thus formed a sort of box resting on the platform. On visiting his *uale tabetabe*, the owner took with him a block of wood which he placed on the ground under the hatch. He squeezed this block to unfasten the first hatch, inside of which he usually kept a length of rope. One end of this he fastened to the platform and then, by the help of the hanging rope, scrambled up to open the second hatch. On leaving, he securely fastened the hatches, retied the knots, placed his piece of rope on the platform, and carried off his block of wood. After widely connect a short ladder, something like a truncated grocer's ladder, came into general use to reach the platform hatches. This was called *tale*, a name probably derived from the word "stool". It was kept in the owner's sleep house when not otherwise needed. I saw no *uale tabetabe* house with two hatches in the storage platform. The above description is based on informant's account of old time practice. Many houses today, however, have the single hatch, which as often as not is fastened with hinges and padlock to the platform.

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RIDGEPOLE, WALL PLATE HOUSE

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The type *uale atua* house is a bilateral wall plate house with two or more ridgeposts supporting the ridgepole (fig. 11). The type house was used in former days principally as a god house (*uale atua*), but the massive construction style made the same type of house ideal for a meeting or watch house. Smaller houses of this type were occasionally used as sleep houses. There are available for study today the watch house at Matala, erected 75 years ago (described as type), a sleep house on the outer beach of Uta, and a model *uale atua* house (C3066)[1]. Brief mention of certain features of the framework of the watch house has already been made by Macgregor (20,p.43).

The watch house was originally constructed with six wall posts. A seventh post has been added at a later date to give added strength. The wall posts of *puapua* wood are sunk about an arm's length in the ground. Each post is round in cross section, save at the top where it is adzed roughly rectangular. The top of each post is grooved to receive the wall plates of *pandanus* wood, which are laid in the grooves, unlashed (fig.11). Five tiebeams are placed transversely across the wall plates, one tiebeam at each end, and the other three equi-spaced along the length of the house. The end of each tiebeam is grooved to fit securely over the wall plate to which it is lashed. The ends of the tiebeams are flush with the wall plates. Two ridgeposts of *puapua* wood, buried in the ground at one end and grooved at the other end, support the main ridgepole of *pandanus* wood which rests in the grooves and is unlashed. Each ridgepost rises from the ground on the inner side of the second tiebeam from each end; about 2 inches separate ridgepost and tiebeam. Running between wall plate and ridgepole on either side of the house are six principal rafters of *pandanus* wood. Each rafter is round in cross section but is grooved at each end to fit against ridgepole and wall plate, to which it is lashed. Each rafter at its lower end projects about 9 inches beyond the wall plate. The under surface at the end of the rafter is flattened that the square surface of the eaves purlin may fit more closely to it before lashing (fig.11,*c*).

[1] Unless otherwise stated, all collection numbers refer to specimens in Bernice P. Bishop Museum.